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# **RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**



*of the*

# **Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1960**



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Air Pollution .. .. .	37, 38
Births .. .. .	12, 14, 15
Deaths .. .. .	12, 13, 14, 15
Diphtheria .. .. .	18, 19
Dysentery .. .. .	20
Food Inspection .. .. .	29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34
Food Premises .. .. .	35
Housing .. .. .	25, 26
Infant Deaths .. .. .	14
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	17, 18, 19, 20
Inspections .. .. .	23
Measles .. .. .	18
Milk .. .. .	22, 37
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	38
National Assistance Act, 1948 .. .. .	16
Nuisances .. .. .	24
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	20
Pneumonia .. .. .	20
Population .. .. .	15
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	20
Refuse Collection and Disposal .. .. .	41
Rodent Control .. .. .	39
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	19, 20
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal .. .. .	41
Smallpox .. .. .	19
Statistics and Social Conditions .. .. .	12
Tuberculosis .. .. .	21, 22
Vital Statistics .. .. .	12
Water Supplies .. .. .	27, 28
Whooping Cough .. .. .	18





*To the Chairman and Members of the Meriden Rural District  
Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1960. As customary, in so doing, the social services administered by me in my capacity as Area Medical Officer on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council are not specially mentioned because full details of them are readily available in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

The population of the District further increased by 2,370 to 56,960—an increase slightly larger than the 1959 increase of 2,330 and again chiefly in the parish of Kingshurst where large scale rehousing of overspill by Birmingham Corporation continued.

Generally speaking, the health of the community was satisfactory. Notifications of infectious diseases fell sharply by more than 50% largely on account of the low incidence of measles.

No cases of diphtheria or enteric fever occurred and it is pleasing to note that the former has not been notified for 11 years, while the latter almost equals this record. Fewer reports of scarlet fever were made and this disease continued in its present-day mild form.

There was a marked decline in the number of cases of pneumonia spread throughout the age groups from 1—65 years and still with a high mortality rate.

The incidence of dysentery declined by half with no admissions to hospital or fatalities.

There were no reports of poliomyelitis for the third successive year and details of the vaccination campaign will be found in the body of the report.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis continued at a low level with only one death compared with 4 in 1959. Likewise, other forms of this disease affecting glands and bones were negligible with no fatal results.

Food poisoning increased by half to a small total of 17 cases chiefly arising among the staff of a local institution.

The general volume and scope of the work of the inspectorate continued at a high level although the number of inspections and visits (8,455) slightly decreased—largely in respect of housing. However, problems arising from camping sites and moveable dwellings rose by almost half indicating the size and importance of this aspect of community housing. Cases of overcrowding (25) were relatively few in a total of 16,481 inhabited dwellings. Nuisances reported showed little change in volume.

Work connected with the examination of food comprised almost one quarter of the total number of incidents, emphasizing the large proportion of time accorded to this very important aspect

of the work of the department. In addition, some 400 visits were made to places connected with the preparation and sale of food.

Work connected with water supplies accounted for some 500 visits. Ample quantities were generally available and, except for sources from a decreasing number of wells and springs, were pure and wholesome. Although it is pleasing to report that the percentage of houses enjoying pipe-borne water increased from 94.7% to 95.2% of the 16,481 inhabited dwellings it must not be overlooked that the relative small minority of 4.8% lacking this very important amenity represents some 758 houses, for which, unfortunately, situated rather distant from existing mains, connections would be relatively expensive. The crux of the matter is linked with the question of "reasonable cost" mentioned in relevant legislation and discussed at some length by your Chief Public Health Inspector in the body of this Report, and whose point of view has my full support.

Although the individual cost of these small schemes is relatively high, collectively, the total sum involved is very small compared with the many other Council outgoings in a rural district with a Rateable Value of £952,298 at 1st April, 1960. This, surely should be a case of "fair shares for all" especially for those, as largely pertains in most instances, whose financial resources are much smaller than their fellows in urban areas. On the other hand, from these remarks it must not be inferred that nothing was accomplished in this respect during the year. On the contrary, 13 schemes for the provision of water mains were considered, 11 of which were approved—one was deferred and one was refused. Of these, three schemes were completed in addition to two sanctioned in 1959.

The need for extending mains water supplies is emphasised by the results of sampling 78 individual sources from wells and springs—67 proved unsatisfactory.

Meat inspections on a 100% basis continued at all 12 of the 15 licensed slaughter houses in operation. The widespread location of these establishments prolongs the working time otherwise necessary and exceeds the whole-time output of two inspectors. In fact, the steady increase in this kind of work, monopolizing the services of one third of the inspectorate fully trained for other equally important tasks, makes the question of the appointment of one or more whole-time meat inspectors worthy of serious consideration. Staff of this new category now recognised by central and local government authorities should materially contribute towards solving the current difficulties in recruiting suitable public health inspectors and effect a considerable financial saving. On the whole, the proportion of the 28,579 carcasses inspected found diseased wholly or partly compared very favourably with the country-wide average. For example, of 3,289 cattle (excluding cows) examined, only 0.67% were affected by tuberculosis, while the percentage of 566 cows inspected was 2.83 : no calves were suspect and only 1.76% of 6,242 pigs scrutinized—all these figures are much lower than those



for 1959. The amount of beef affected by the cystic stage of the human tapeworm (cysticercosis) was small and nil for pigs.

The Report required under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1950 was formally submitted to the Ministry in May, 1960. It revealed that none of the existing 15 licensed premises complied with the requirements of the Act and it is felt that only 9 of them will have done so by the 31st December, 1961, which is the operative date fixed by the Minister. At the close of the year under review no licensee had fully complied with the requirements.

The greater proportion of the remaining large number of the more important inspections and visits were related to housing, camping sites and moveable dwellings, infectious diseases, rodent infestation and atmospheric pollution.

Regarding housing, whereas in 1959, partly on account of the enforced financial stringency, 44 new Council dwellings were erected compared with 42 in 1958, it is disappointing to note that no new Council houses were completed in 1960. Nevertheless, at the close of the year, 106 units of accommodation were in course of construction at the Stonebridge Road, No. 3 Site, Coleshill. This scheme includes provision for 56 old peoples' dwellings, two communal centres and two Warden's houses—the whole is due for completion in 1962. During the same year construction of 8 houses and 4 bungalows at Chadwick End continued but at a slower rate.

Although the Council now owns 1,698 dwellings, equal to 29.1 per 1,000 head of population, the need for accelerated progress is readily visualized against a background of increasing applications. It is felt that the great majority of units now in hand or projected will need to be allocated for slum clearance which, in turn, is unfortunately seriously retarded by the delay in replacements.

The first stage of the overall slum clearance survey approved in 1955—embracing 262 dwellings over 6 years was completed with a small surplus. However, despite the demolition of 160 and the closure of 64, some 104 structures still awaited demolition, the delay being due to the lack of replacements. Meanwhile, the number of applications for Council houses increased to 619 compared with 503 in 1959. Of these applicants, 237 families were in lodgings, so that the urgency and magnitude of the task still outstanding and also growing cannot be too strongly emphasized.

At present, responsibility for the day-to-day general administration of the housing section of the Health Department devolves on the Chief Public Health Inspector, who discharges this aspect of his multifarious duties very efficiently. Nevertheless, in the light of the foregoing remarks, it is felt that a stage has now been reached when further consideration should be given to the setting up of a separate Housing Department in charge of a Housing Manager. This would enable the Chief Public Health Inspector and other members of the Health Department to devote more time to the more

pressing needs of work and duties normally associated with staff of this category.

Maintaining its keen interest in problems arising from atmospheric pollution your Authority continued its membership of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and Mr. R. Haines, your Chief Public Health Inspector succeeded the writer as Chairman of its Technical Committee. Meetings of the Council are held at quarterly intervals usually, by invitation, at different centres in the County and during 1960 these took place at Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon, Nuneaton and Leamington Spa. By so doing, local interest in the valuable work of the Council is enhanced. Although efforts to minimize the fouling of the air fundamental to our existence have been made for centuries, it is only in this century that any good progress has been made. While the Clean Air Act, 1956 has empowered statutory bodies to take steps towards implementing the provisions of the Act, to date, real progress has been comparatively slow. The reports of the Analyst to the Clean Air Council substantiate the conclusions of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research that the smaller rural hamlets are frequently relatively more at fault than the largest conurbations and results indicate that in this respect, no part of this county is free from contamination from internal or external sources.

The incidence of bronchitis in England and Wales is so high compared with other countries, some of which have comparable climates, that it is termed the "English disease," and evidence is increasing that victims of this frequently fatal, and always disabling malady, are more numerous in areas subject to high atmospheric pollution.

In the past, measurement of atmospheric pollution was chiefly based on the assessment of the amount of grit deposited. For some time it had been realised that this method had its drawbacks because the relatively high weight of the grit particles caused them to have a localised fall-out and, therefore, results could only be applicable to a circumscribed zone in the immediate vicinity of the points of emission, usually industrial chimney stacks, which by virtue of their height, dispersed the other components of their discharges such as smoke and sulphur gases over a wider area. This aspect of the situation has been stressed by the Standing Conference of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research which has recommended an increased use of the daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide. Indeed, it is these last mentioned pollutants which contribute most to the ill-health caused because the greater part of the particles of grit are too large to reach the interstices of the lung tissues because they are filtered out in the air passages. Nevertheless, from the foregoing it must not be inferred that measurements of the grit deposits are redundant ; on the contrary, they will continue to give essential, valuable information regarding emissions from selected sources of which the coal burning electricity generating station at Hams Hall, near Coleshill is an example.



This may be small or no consolation to residents in this vicinity who have been not only subjected to the heaviest grit deposits for 6 years but also to dust arising at ground level from the unsatisfactory methods of disposal of the ash residue from the combustion of the coal—a case of adding insult to injury. It would not be altogether improper to suggest that judging by the small measure of success in combating this nuisance, money has been burned in no small amount. It is to be hoped that a solution of the problem will be found in the near future and, towards this end, it is realized that H.M. Alkali Inspector, within whose sphere of activities this primarily lies, continues to take not only an active interest but maintains constant contact with those responsible for the over-all administration of the concern.

This is a composite report for the presentation of which I am responsible as the leader of a team.

The Sections dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area—general inspections, nuisances, housing, water supply, inspection of meat and other foods as well as statistics of air pollution, have been contributed by your Chief Public Health Inspector to whom I am especially grateful.

I am again indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for the information regarding sewerage and sewage disposal and refuse collection.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation of the zealous work of the inspectorate and other members of the staff and the ready co-operation and assistance from the members of the other departments and to express my thanks for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. MCELROY  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Park Road,  
COLESHILL.  
September, 1961.

# MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1960

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## Chairman of the Council :

Mrs. C. M. WHEATLEY

## Vice-Chairman of the Council :

R. J. EARLE

## Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE

## Public Health Committee : 1960-61

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Day, A. R.	Jackson, B. H.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Dugmore, A. P.	Kelsey, H.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Earle, R. J.	Shaw, E.
Gurden, Mrs. M. E.	Edwards, N. A.	Spencer, R. J.
Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.	Fish, E. G.	Sperryn, J. G.
Antrobus, W.	Gee, Capt. D.	Stewart, J. D.
Butler, F. S.	Greensmith, H.	

## Housing Committee : 1960-61

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Breeden, J. S.	Prosser, D. W.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Day, A. R.	Sakne, E.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Hales, A. F.	Spencer, R. G.
Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Hamar, J.	Sperryn, J. G.
Lynall, Mrs. G. M.	Kelsey, E. J.	Stewart, J. D.
Parry, Mrs. E. I.	Knowles, T.	Victor-Halford, C. A.
Aylesford, Earl of	Lowe, G. H.	Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.



# **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1960**

---

## **Medical Officer of Health :**

**R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.**

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Tamworth Rural District Council  
and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire  
County Council)

## **Chief Public Health Inspector :**

**R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.**

## **Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :**

**G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.**

## **Additional Public Health Inspectors :**

**W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.**

**T. P. BERESFORD, M.A.P.H.I.**

**R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.**

**B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I.**

## **Chief Clerk :**

**J. D. MYNARD, A.R.S.H.**

### **Council Offices :**

Old Bank House,  
Church Hill,  
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 3141.

### **Office of the Medical Officer of Health :**

Area Health Office,  
Park Road,  
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 2331-2.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population (Estimated Mid. 1959) .....	56,960
Area in acres .....	61,775
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1959) .....	16,300
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1960) .....	£952,298
Product of a penny rate .....	£3,701

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births

	Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....		542	574	1,116
Illegitimate .....		19	18	37
Totals .....		561	592	1,153

#### Birth Rate

20.20 per 1,000 estimated population

1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
20.20	19.08	20.03	18.55	17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82	15.50	15.54

#### Still Births

	Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....		6	10	16
Illegitimate .....		—	1	1
Totals .....		6	11	17

#### Still Birth Rate

14.52 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
14.52	16.05	20.58	18.18	21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81	28.1	32.2

#### Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	226	192	418

#### Crude Death Rate

7.33 per 1,000 estimated population.

1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
7.33	7.03	7.36	6.91	7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8	8.3	10.3

# Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	—	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease .....	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8.	Measles .....	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2	4	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	6	3	9
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	9	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	4	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	30	12	42
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes .....	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	26	34	60
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	54	25	79
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	3	4	7
20.	Other heart disease .....	20	22	42
21.	Other circulatory disease .....	10	8	18
22.	Influenza .....	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia .....	8	11	19
24.	Bronchitis .....	13	5	18
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	2	5
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis .....	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations .....	5	8	13
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	26	23	49
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	6	6	12
34.	All other accidents .....	3	7	10
35.	Suicide .....	5	1	6
36.	Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
37.	All causes .....	226	192	418

**Population and Birth and Death Ratio.**

Year		Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1951	..	37,950	590	390	+ 200
1952	..	37,790	586	315	+ 271
1953	..	38,220	643	339	+ 304
1954	..	39,590	694	327	+ 367
1955	..	42,870	692	358	+ 334
1956	..	46,820	813	351	+ 462
1957	..	49,490	918	342	+ 576
1958	..	52,260	1,047	385	+ 662
1959	..	54,590	1,042	384	+ 658
1960	..	56,960	1,153	418	+ 735

**Maternal Deaths** .. Nil.

**Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)**

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	12	7	19
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals .....	13	7	20
	—	—	—

**Infant Mortality Rate.**

17.34 per 1,000 births.

1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
17.34	14.39	16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7	32.4	34

**Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).**

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	9	6	15
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals .....	10	6	16
	—	—	—

Neonatal Death Rate .. 13.87 per 1,000 live births.  
(first four weeks)



**Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.**

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
<b>Births</b>		
Live Births ..	*18.38	17.1
Still Births ..	14.52(a)	19.7(a)
<b>Deaths</b>		
All causes .. ..	*10.99	11.5
Infant Mortality ..	17.84(b)	21.7(b)
Neonatal mortality	13.87(b)	

\* Using comparability factors (Births 0.91 and Deaths 1.50).

(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

(b) per 1,000 live births.

**Cancer.**

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms .. ..	39	32	71

Cancer Death Rate = 1.24 per 1,000 estimated population.

**Population**

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 56,960 an increase of 2,370 over the 1959 total of 54,590. As was the case in the previous years, this expansion mostly occurred in the Parish of Kingshurst where the large-scale development by the Birmingham Corporation Housing Department continued to provide for its over-spill which is estimated to reach 12,000 head of population by 1965.

**Births**

As would be expected, owing to the large proportion of married couples of the younger age groups, especially in the Kingshurst and Castle Bromwich Parishes, the standardised Birth Rate of 18.38 per 1,000 estimated population exceeded the corresponding figure of 17.1 for England and Wales and was slightly higher than that of 17.36 for the District in 1959.

**Deaths**

Evidence of the good health and longevity of the inhabitants is apparent in the comparative Death Rate of 10.99 for 1,000 population which, once more, was lower than the provisional figure of 11.5 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart, cancer and vascular

lesions of the nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 71 deaths—6 less than in 1959. Of these, only 9 were due to lung cancer—10 fewer than the previous year—affecting 6 males and 3 females.

For the ninth year in succession no mothers died in child-birth.

Among notifiable diseases, pneumonia caused 19 deaths out of 23 cases—a very high mortality rate and a continuing cause for grave concern.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948**

The number of cases requiring assessment for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation further decreased indicating that a larger proportion of the aged and infirm are enabled to remain in their own homes which is desirable from every point of view, especially on financial grounds. Here, tribute must be paid to the Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services which contribute so much to this satisfactory state of affairs. It is also pleasing to be able to report that, in no instance, was statutory action necessary on my part for compulsory removal to an institution under Section 47 of the Act.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1960.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1959 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases re- moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.		
Measles .....	21 (344)	—	14	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	71 (72)	6	28	35	—	2	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	4 (2)	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	35 (54)	—	10	24	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	23 (63)	—	4	2	5	4	2	6	8	19
Malaria .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	48 (96)	1	14	18	5	10	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	67 (98)	—	—	—	39	28	—	—	67	—
Meningococcal Infection .....	1 (2)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	3 (8)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	19 (15)	—	—	3	1	10	3	2	8	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	4 (4)	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning .....	17 (11)	1	—	2	12	—	1	1	—	—
Totals .....	313 (769)	11	71	91	63	60	6	11	87	20



**General Comment**

Compared with 1959, notifications of infectious diseases decreased sharply from 769 to 313, chiefly due to a marked fall in the incidence of measles coupled with an almost general over-all reduction.

**Measles**

Since 1957, when 1,006 cases were recorded, the pattern of this malady has changed from its hitherto marked biennial periodicity to a slower annual decline. However, a decrease to only 21 cases from 344 in 1959 can be regarded as satisfactory. Although the severity and complications of measles have lessened over the past three decades, fatalities and eye and ear troubles still occur so that the outcome of the present research work towards a preventive inoculation is keenly awaited. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that the diagnosis and treatment of infectious disease now requires less than a fifth of the hospital beds estimated necessary twenty years ago.

**Whooping Cough**

Cases decreased slightly to 71 in relation to the 1959 figure of 72. The great majority occurred in the 1-5 and 5-15 year age groups but, in addition, two adults were victims of this generally regarded childhood disease.

Protection against whooping cough is now usually combined with that given for diphtheria and tetanus and punch-recorded on a stout cellophane card easily carried by the parent. These combined injections continued to be popular and 951 out of 1,072 were given to infants under one year. Reinforcing doses shortly before or at school entry totalled 541 out of 671 inoculations and details of all are given in the following table from which will also be noticed a gratifying increase in the number of children.

**Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1960**

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary .....	951	90	18	12	1	1072
Reinforcing ....	—	10	154	387	120	671
Totals .....	951	100	172	399	121	1743

**Diphtheria**

No cases have been recorded for eleven successive years. Nevertheless, the need for maintaining a high level of immunity as a safeguard cannot be too strongly emphasized.



The table sub-pended summarises the campaign undertaken by County Council staff and general practitioners and reveals a considerable increase over the 1959 figures.

**Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1960.**

(Comparative figures for 1959 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary .....	903 (740)	114 (114)	30 (12)	39 (15)	2 (—)	1088 (881)
Re-inforcing ....	— (—)	7 (1)	208 (98)	690 (445)	286 (58)	1191 (602)
Totals .....	903 (740)	121 (115)	238 (110)	729 (460)	288 (58)	2279 (1483)

### Smallpox

No cases occurred nor was it necessary to keep under surveillance any contacts of patients elsewhere.

Details of vaccinations performed at Child Welfare Centres and by General Practitioners are given below. It will be seen that the numbers of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated declined compared with the previous year despite continuous propaganda by all concerned especially the Health Visitors.

**Table showing Number of Persons Vaccinated against Smallpox in 1960.**

(Comparative figures for 1959 are given in parenthesis).

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated .....	503 (593)	29 (42)	45 (32)	16 (28)	29 (22)	622 (717)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (—)	— (—)	7 (5)	8 (11)	86 (48)	101 (64)
Totals .....	503 (593)	29 (42)	52 (37)	24 (39)	115 (70)	723 (781)

### Scarlet Fever

The incidence further decreased to 35 cases compared with 54 for 1959. All but one of the patients were between the ages of one and fifteen years—the usual pattern—and of the prevalent mild

nature. In fact, it has been suggested that in view of the small constitutional disturbance caused, notification of this disease is no longer warranted. However, inasmuch as the causative organism is a streptococcus found in the throat and capable of infecting milk where it readily multiplies and thereby may lead to further cases, it would be inadvisable to discontinue notification.

### **Pneumonia**

Although reports were much lower, nineteen of the twenty-three cases proved fatal and as mentioned in earlier reports the challenge to research workers remains.

### **Dysentery**

Reports fell to 48, the great majority occurring in a primary school where a small, mild epidemic continued from the last month of the old year into the first month of the new year.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia**

Notifications decreased to 67 and for the most part were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where deliveries for the year were 3,468 so that the incidence was relatively low.

### **Acute Poliomyelitis**

For the third successive year no cases came to light and it is worth recording that some 3,368 persons in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts, comprising the North Western Area of the County, received two injections. In addition 7,199 people were given a third dose.

The following Table sets out the complete Poliomyelitis injections carried out in the North Western Area from the commencement of the scheme up to the 31st December, 1960, and I am including this as I thought it would be of interest.

#### **Completed Poliomyelitis Injections as at 31st December, 1960.**

	Primary	Booster	Totals
0-15 years . . . .	16,731	14,131	30,862
15-25 years . . . .	3,824	3,021	6,845
25-40 years . . . .	1,172	866	2,038
Expectant Mothers . . . .	967	835	1,802
Others . . . . .	460	400	860
Totals . . . . .	23,154	19,253	42,407

## Tuberculosis

During the year 19 new cases of the pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 15 and 4 cases respectively in 1959.

Only 8 of the pulmonary infections were admitted to hospital, the majority undergoing treatment in their own homes.

### Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1960.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1959 .....	162	143	23	24
2. New Cases .....	8	11	1	3
3. Inward Transfers .....	9	10	—	1
4. Removals .....	12	23	2	3
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1960 .....	167	141	22	25

The Chest Clinic, opened at Coleshill in 1954, continued in charge of Dr. W. E. Zundel, the Chest Physician, with the radiographer from St. Gerard's Hospital, Coleshill in attendance on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the Clinic operates.

### Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1960.

	Men	Women	Children	Totals
Pulmonary .....	98	89	13	200
Non-Pulmonary	6	11	7	24
Totals .....	104	100	20	224

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic opened in February 1955 continued in charge of Dr. Zundel and from the table below it will be seen that 29 children were vaccinated.

### No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1960.

Men	Women	Children	Total
—	11	29	40



The sex incidence and age groups of the new cases is shown in the following table from which it will be seen that adolescents and young adults comprised over half the total. There were two deaths, both females over 45 years in the pulmonary group.

**Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1960**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
35 ..	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	8	11	1	3	—	2	—	—

Suspected milk supplies are investigated by the County Health Department and the position during the year was as follows :—

**Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1960**

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised .....	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).....	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested .....	13	Nil
Non-designated .....	23	Nil



# Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following inspections and visits were made :—

Housing .....	944
Overcrowding .....	25
Nuisances .....	1,301
Slaughterhouses .....	59
Food premises.....	338
Food stalls and vehicles.....	62
Bakehouses .....	6
Food Examination .....	2,222
Dairies .....	13
Water Supplies .....	302
Camping sites and moveable dwellings .....	403
Infectious diseases .....	516
Rodent infestation .....	1,315
Atmospheric pollution .....	291
Factories .....	36
Rent Act .....	9
Closet conversions .....	15
Shops Act .....	55
Insect infestation .....	179
Verminous premises .....	12
Miscellaneous .....	352
	<hr/>
	8,455
	<hr/>

Complaints received and investigated totalled 765.

## NUISANCES

Nuisances were reported and dealt with as follows :—

Accumulations of refuse .....	23
Animals so kept .....	3
Cesspools overflowing .....	47
Closets defective and insanitary .....	11
Drains choked and defective .....	96
Dustbins defective or absent .....	15
Foul ditches and water courses.....	37
Smoke, dust and effluvia .....	18
Housing defects :	
Dampness .....	15
Defective walls .....	17
,, roofs .....	28
,, chimneys.....	15
,, windows and doors .....	26
,, rainwater conductors .....	16
,, paving .....	1
,, wall and ceiling plaster .....	30
,, floors .....	13
,, firegrates.....	16
,, washing boilers .....	7
,, water closets .....	4
Unsatisfactory water supplies .....	27
Dirty houses (occupiers' neglect) .....	4
<hr/>	
469	
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The following is a summary of formal notices served during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of nuisances and similar matters :—

Section	Requirement	No. of cases
47	Conversion of closets to water carriage system .....	4
50	Prevention of overflow from cesspool .....	1
75	Provision of dustbins .....	4
92-3	Abatement of nuisances .....	8
138	Provision of piped water supplies .....	3

## HOUSING

Thirty-two houses, 20 bungalows and 54 flats are in course of construction by the Council at Coleshill. Work is continuing on the building of a further 8 houses and 4 bungalows at Chadwick End in the parish of Balsall. No new houses were completed during the year. There were 61 casual vacancies in Council houses, which were allocated as follows :—

Slum clearance.....	15
General needs .....	33
Old people (other than slum clearance) .....	3
Agricultural (priority) .....	6
Council employees (priority) .....	4

The Council own 1,698 houses of various types, amounting to 29.1 per 1,000 population. It is anticipated that almost all the houses under construction will be required for slum clearance replacement. Many more are needed, and the continued shortage of new houses is restricting the progress of the Council's slum clearance programme. In addition the general list of applicants is increasing more quickly than the rate of re-housing in casual vacancies, there being now 619 current applications compared with 503 last year. Completion of the houses now under construction should reduce the waiting list by about a hundred cases, but meanwhile others are being added almost daily. Virtually no progress is being made in providing houses for the large group of people remaining, and all of them have to prove a degree of hardship before being admitted to the register. The average waiting period for applicants not in priority groups is now upwards of five years, and tending to increase.

### Slum Clearance

Action taken during the year is summarized in the following table :—

#### Clearance areas

Number of orders made.....	nil
Number of houses affected .....	nil
Number of orders confirmed .....	2
Number of houses demolished .....	5

#### Single houses

Demolition orders made .....	35
Houses demolished.....	18
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation .....	12
Closing orders revoked .....	nil
Demolition orders revoked .....	1

#### Houses made fit—

Voluntarily, by owners.....	58
By owners, after formal notices .....	3
By Council, in default of owners .....	nil



The Council's slum clearance programme, approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955, proposed the demolition of 262 houses over a period of six years.

Administratively this target has been slightly exceeded, 265 houses having been dealt with. It has not however been possible to secure the demolition of all the condemned houses, because of the shortage of new ones to replace them. The position at the end of the year was as follows :—

Number of houses demolished .....	160
Number of houses closed .....	64
Number of houses formally condemned and awaiting demolition .....	104
	<hr/>
	328
	<hr/>

### Overcrowding

There is little known overcrowding in the district, measured by the standard laid down in section 76 of the Housing Act, 1957, the position at the end of the year being as follows :—

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	2
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	7
No. of families involved .....	13
No. of persons involved .....	107
Cases relieved during year by Council .....	2

The standard, however, is unrealistic and quite unrelated to modern conceptions of acceptable living conditions. A better guide is to be found in the register of housing applications, which includes 237 families in lodgings and 31 in caravans, none of whom can be regarded as adequately housed.

### Rent Act, 1957

The procedure whereby certificates of disrepair are issued, in order to prevent rent increases where rent-controlled houses are not properly maintained, has never been operated to any great extent, and is now little used. Tenants are not so much concerned with preventing rent increases as with obtaining satisfactory living conditions. Their usual practice, therefore, is to ask for the enforcement of repairs, for which purpose the Rent Act is inappropriate. The following table gives the action taken under the Rent Act during the year :—

Applications for certificates of disrepair (form I)....	2
Notices to landlords of intention to issue certificates of disrepair (form J) .....	2
Undertakings to do repairs received from landlords (form K) .....	2
Certificates of disrepair issued (form L) .....	nil
Applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair	1
Certificates of disrepair cancelled on application, after repairs had been completed .....	1



## WATER SUPPLIES

### Sampling

The following table gives the results of bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year :—

	Satisfactory	Unfit	Total
Old wells .....	9	56	65
Springs .....	2	11	13
Mains .....	1	—	1
	12	67	79

Fifteen water samples were taken for chemical analysis, ten being reported satisfactory and five unfit. All were from private supplies.

### Water Schemes

The following proposals for providing additional water mains were considered during the year :—

	Locality	Length of main	Estimated cost	Properties to be served	Decision
1	Birmingham Road, Water Orton .....	240 yards	£725	3 houses and smallholdings	Approved
2	Hawkeswell Lane, Coleshill .....	816 yards	£2,000	6 houses including one farm and 2 smallholdings	
3	Middle Bickenhill Lane, Bickenhill. ....	454 yards	£1,925	7 houses	„
4	Newhall Green, Fillongley. ....	590 yards	£1,625	5 houses	„
5	Coventry Road, Bickenhill .....	42 yards	£170	1 house	„
6	Highfield Lane, Corley Ash .....	305 yards	£750	2 houses	„
7	Church Lane, Corley .....	700 yards	£1,500	6 houses including 1 farm	„
8	Fivefield Road, Keresley .....	300 yards	£1,070	5 houses	„
9	Marsh Lane, Bradnocks Marsh, Berkswell .....	590 yards	£1,250	7 houses including 1 farm	„
10	Coventry Road, Berkswell .....	1,110 yards	£2,540	9 houses	„
11	Bickenhill Lane, Hampton-in-Arden ....	1,750 yards	£4,580	8 houses including 2 farms	„
12	Table Oak Lane, Meer End, Balsall ....	715 yards	£1,380	1 house and farm	Refused
13	Broad Lane, Fillongley .....	3,013 yards	£12,300	24 houses including 4 farms	Deferred

In case Number 12 above, it was possible to supply the farm by means of a long private service pipe, at considerably less cost. Schemes numbers 1, 2 and 5 in the list have already been carried out. In addition, two schemes which had been approved during the previous year were completed. They were : Eaves Green, Meriden, supplying 12 houses, and Dunton Wharf, Curdworth, providing for 9 houses including 2 farms.

### Position regarding piped water supplies

The following table gives the number of houses in each parish having a public piped water supply :—

Parish	Houses	Birmingham Water Dept.	Coventry Water Dept.	N.E. W'shire Water B'd	Others
Allesley .....	938	—	896	—	—
Arley .....	943	—	—	934	—
Astley .....	66	—	—	36	—
Balsall.....	983	—	904	—	—
Barston .....	136	—	121	—	—
Berkswell .....	652	—	580	—	—
Bickenhill .....	893	868	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich ....	2,714	2,709	—	—	—
Coleshill .....	1,410	1,347	—	—	—
Corley.....	242	—	238	—	—
Curdworth .....	153	143	—	—	—
Fillongley .....	428	293	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	435	—	412	—	—
Keresley .....	1,018	—	1,014	—	—
Kingshurst .....	2,539	2,531	—	—	—
Lea Marston .....	88	73	—	—	—
Maxstoke .....	87	35	—	—	—
Meriden .....	547	—	520	—	—
Packington (Great and Little) .....	65	—	7	—	—
Shustoke .....	177	154	—	—	—
Water Orton .....	773	770	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre ....	263	259	—	—	—
Over Whitacre .....	110	91	—	—	—
Wishaw .....	63	—	—	—	26
	15,723	9,273	4,692	974	26

Negotiations were continuing at the end of the year for the inclusion of the parish of Wishaw in the statutory supply area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. At present the Council is the water undertaking for the parish, purchasing water in bulk from the Company.

The percentage of houses having piped water supplies in the district is now 95.2. The building of many more new houses in the district, and the demolition of some which did not have mains water, are the principal factors contributing to the further increase in the proportion of houses having piped supplies. However, the 4.8% still without this amenity represents some 758 houses, a sizeable problem by any standard, and unfortunately they are mostly so remote from existing mains that the provision of piped water to them would be relatively costly.

Interpretation of the term “reasonable cost” in this context is primarily a matter for the Council, but it is proper to consider cost not only in relation to individual houses, but also to the relative burden imposed on the ratepayers as a whole, which is often slight. The practice hitherto has been to seek capital contributions from benefiting owners in many cases. This however can lead to anomalies, particularly where some are willing and others in the same scheme are not. The matter was considered in principle during the year, but a proposal to cease seeking private contributions did not meet with the Council’s approval. The result was immediately apparent. A case was reported involving a scattered community of 24 houses, all of them depending on privately-owned supplies which are polluted. Faced with the obligation to renew some long and therefore expensive private service pipes at their own cost, the owners declined to contribute towards the capital cost of the mains, with the result that the scheme was deferred indefinitely. This is a serious matter, particularly as local sources of underground water are generally unreliable. No part of the Council’s district is more than a few miles from a large town enjoying all main services, and quite naturally the country residents expect piped water as of right. With 95.2% of them already enjoying this amenity, it can fairly be argued that they should bear the burden of providing for the others who are less fortunately placed.

It is of interest to observe that in the year ended the 31st March, 1960, the cost to the Council of street lighting was more than three times that of public water supplies. Whilst street lighting, once installed, becomes a permanent charge on the rates, the guarantee payments to water undertakings in respect of new water mains cease after 12 years. It should therefore be possible to provide piped water to many more houses which are without it, as the cost to the community would not be unreasonable when compared with public spending in other less essential directions.

## **FOOD INSPECTION**

### **Meat**

The policy of inspecting all meat killed at licensed slaughterhouses was continued, and the Council were again able to claim a Ministry grant for meat inspected in excess of the district’s standard requirements. As the slaughtering is done in a number of small premises scattered throughout the district, the time spent on meat inspection and incidental travelling is considerable, amounting to more than the equivalent full time of two inspectors.



The following table gives the number of animals inspected, and the condemnations :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected . . . .	3,289	566	313	18,169	6,242
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	3	17	14	26	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	432	143	10	1,015	768
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci . . . . .	13.23	28.27	7.67	5.73	12.56
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	22	15	—	—	110
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis . . . . .	0.67	2.83	—	—	1.76
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned . . . . .	36	3	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion . . . . .	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—



Details of carcasses and offals condemned are given in the table below :—

**Whole Carcasses :—**

Animals No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows) Cows	3	Emaciation, pathological .....	700
	3	Johnes disease .....	1,090
	3	Emaciation, pathological .....	970
	1	Tuberculosis .....	200
	1	Peritonitis, septic .....	350
	1	Pericarditis, septic .....	550
	1	Mastitis, septic .....	520
	3	Oedema, generalized.....	1,125
	5	Sepsis .....	1,970
	18		6,775
Pigs	4	Fever .....	297
	2	Moribund .....	100
	2	Peritonitis, septic .....	265
	2	Oedema .....	115
	1	Emaciation, pathological .....	120
	1	Tumours, multiple .....	560
	1	Leukaemia .....	35
	1	Jaundice .....	40
	1	Congestion .....	30
	1	Swine Erysipelas, acute .....	58
	16		1,620
Sheep	6	Fever .....	297
	5	Emaciation .....	210
	4	Moribund .....	210
	4	Congestion .....	268
	2	Oedema .....	85
	3	Injuries .....	130
	1	Metritis, septic .....	94
	1	Mastitis, septic .....	62
	26		1,356

Animals No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Calves	3	Fever .....	114
	2	Immaturity .....	38
	2	Congestion .....	99
	2	Pneumonia .....	60
	2	Emaciation .....	47
	2	Pyæmia, Umbilical .....	95
	1	Moribund .....	40
— 14 —			493

### Part Carcases :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Heads	10	282	48	1,373
	Trimnings	—	20	—	419
Cows :	Heads	4	112	3	84
	Trimnings	—	—	—	1,193
Pigs :	Heads	96	1,283	30	401
	Trimnings	—	38	—	179
Sheep :	Heads	—	—	3	11
	Trimnings	—	—	—	91
Calves :	Trimnings	—	—	—	45
			1,735		3,798

# Offal :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Lungs	10	68	37	232
	Livers	3	45	189	2,824
	Part Livers	—	—	287	1,858
	Hearts	1	3	23	68
	Spleens	1	1	1	1
	Kidneys	—	—	2	2
	Mesenteries	1	3	1	3
	Skirts	—	—	1	1
Cows :					
	Lungs	7	45	23	152
	Livers	—	—	100	1,377
	Part Livers	—	—	44	288
	Hearts	—	—	1	3
	Spleens	—	—	1	1
	Kidneys	—	—	4	4
	Mesenteries	—	—	1	3
	Skirts	—	—	1	1
	Udders	—	—	1	4
Pigs :					
	Lungs	3	3	670	330
	Livers	2	5	216	514
	Part Livers	—	—	134	133
	Hearts	—	—	44	24
	Spleens	—	—	2	1
	Kidneys	—	—	10	2
	Mesenteries	4	3	2	1
Sheep :					
	Lungs	—	—	825	419
	Livers	—	—	349	689
	Part Livers	—	—	348	263
	Hearts	—	—	8	4
Calves :					
	Lungs	—	—	2	1
	Livers	—	—	1	2
			176		9,205

## Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960

Particulars of these new regulations were sent to all occupiers of slaughterhouses, none of whom made any proposal to provide sterilizing facilities for unfit meat. The Council were not satisfied that existing arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat excluded all possibility of subsequent sale for human food, and there was a growing tendency for certain slaughterhouse proprietors to trade in animals likely to be condemned, with the knowledge that there was a keen demand for dog-meat. This practice amounted to using a slaughterhouse as a knacker's yard, and the Council wel-

comed the opportunity given by the regulations to put a stop to it. A system of regular collection of condemned meat by the Council was therefore introduced, disposal being to a by-products processing plant at Nuneaton. Although understandably the scheme is not popular with certain butchers, none has objected to it and it works well in practice. Certainly there has been a marked decline in the killing of low-grade animals in at least one instance, and the risks of wrongful disposal of condemned meat have been reduced to a minimum.

### Other food

The following were condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners.

475 lbs. miscellaneous tinned foods.  
633 lbs. meat.  
306 lbs. poultry.

### Slaughterhouses (Reports) Direction, 1959

The Council's formal report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was submitted in May 1960. It classified the existing slaughterhouses as follows :—

(i)	Premises which already comply with the requirements of the Construction Regulations	nil
(ii)	Premises in use which the Council expect to comply by the date which they recommend for the operation of the Regulations in their district (i.e. 31st December, 1961).....	9
(iii)	Premises in use which the Council expect not to comply by that date.....	3
(iv)	Premises not in use but for which a licence is in force or was in force during the 12 months preceding the report—	
	(a) expected to comply by the date recommended .....	1
	(b) not expected to comply by the date recommended .....	2
		<hr/> 15 <hr/>

There were no outstanding applications for new licences. None of the premises had been brought fully to the required standard by the end of the year. Progress had been made in several cases but in others no effective steps had been taken. The Minister's acceptance of the report was awaited.



## Food premises

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery.....	76
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	63
Bread and cakes .....	7
Sweets and confectionery .....	23
Greengrocery .....	32
Butchery .....	42
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	15
Restaurants, cafes, etc. ....	32
Hotels and licensed premises .....	70
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food) .....	15
Industrial catering .....	12
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district .....	17
Bakehouses .....	8
	<hr/>
	412

## Registered food premises

The following premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream .....	11
Sale only of ice-cream .....	138
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat .....	18
Fish frying .....	11

No manufacturing of ice-cream is now carried on at any of the premises registered for the purpose. Supplies are obtained, as in the case of other retail premises, from manufacturing sources outside the district.

## Food Hygiene Regulations

The standard of hygiene in food premises is generally quite good. The largest establishments are not necessarily the best, nor in many cases is the quality of the hotel dining-rooms an indication of the state of the kitchens. Most occupiers are only too willing to co-operate when their attention is drawn to unsatisfactory conditions, but as in many other industries there is difficulty in obtaining labour of the requisite quality. A fair proportion of departmental time is spent in the supervision of food premises, but experience shows that more frequent visiting would be desirable in many cases.

The following contraventions, discovered in the course of routine inspections, were dealt with informally :—

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	13
Sink and/or wash-hand basin defective or absent .....	20
Inadequate lighting .....	5
Closets defective or absent .....	3
Structural defects .....	9
Drains defective or absent .....	3
Dirty equipment .....	2
Dirty walls and ceilings .....	11
No separate space for storage of clothing	6
Mobile shops without name and address	7
Lack of attention to personal hygiene .....	5
Inadequate premises .....	1
	—
	85
	—

### Complaints relating to food

Complaints received and investigated alleging unfit food included the following :—

1. Fruit juice containing solid contaminant, found on microscopical examination to consist only of vegetable fibres, of no significance.
2. Metal in ice-cream. Investigation confirmed that the metal was probably from a tin containing ingredients used in the manufacturing process.
3. Foreign material in a steak and kidney pie, thought to be an insect body. Analysis disclosed only dried normal ingredients.
4. Cake containing a piece of metal, which investigation showed to be part of a belt fastener from the bakery machinery.
5. Metal in a loaf of bread, found to be part of a cutting blade used in the slicing process.
6. Live grubs in biscuits, identified as larvae of the Mediterranean flour moth.

In cases numbers 1 and 3, investigations did not justify criticism of the manufacturers concerned, although the complaints were reasonable. Numbers 2, 4 and 5 appeared to have been due to purely accidental circumstances. The manufacturers concerned took very thorough measures to investigate the incidents and to prevent a repetition, and it was felt that little further would be achieved by statutory proceedings. Formal warnings were therefore given. The unfit biscuits involved a manufacturing firm of national repute, who gave the impression of having done so much to ensure a first-class product that their goods could not have been contaminated at the factory. However, the circumstances at the retailer's premises left no doubt that the biscuits were infested before he received

them. Proceedings were therefore taken against the manufacturers and a fine imposed.

**Milk and Dairies**

The following distributors of milk are registered :—

Retail dairymen resident in the district....	21
Shopkeepers selling milk in bottles only	19
	<hr/> 40 <hr/>

Licences granted or renewed under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations were as follows:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers (within the district) .....	22	27	28
Supplementary (enabling traders from other areas to sell designated milk within the district)...	12	14	14
	<hr/> 34 <hr/>	<hr/> 41 <hr/>	<hr/> 42 <hr/>

**Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

Licences were issued to 43 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases, and in four cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

**AIR POLLUTION**

Atmospheric grit deposits measured by the four gauges in the vicinity of the Hams Hall electricity generating stations were as follows, expressed in tons per square mile per month :

	Lea Marston	Bacons End	Nether Whitacre	Coleshill
1960 .....	19.17	11.56	14.00	12.67
Average of years 1950-1959 .....	17.50	11.48	—	—
Average of years 1955-1959 .....	—	—	11.80	9.96



Reference was made in the 1959 report to the rising trend in the grit deposits at Lea Marston, as disclosed by the gauge nearest to the Hams Hall power stations. This gauge showed a further rise in 1960, and there were complaints from local residents. The matter was again referred to H. M. Alkali Inspector, being within his province and not directly under the Council's control. It appeared that the electricity authority had already taken much trouble to improve the grit arresting plant at the newest station, " C " which had given unsatisfactory results from the outset. The disappointing fact remained that, despite their efforts, the measured rate of atmospheric grit deposit at Lea Marston was the highest for six years.

An additional grit gauge, belonging to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and operated by the Bedworth U.D.C. at Keresley, is used in connection with the problem of atmospheric grit emitted from the chimney of the Coventry Colliery. The average reading for 1960 was 17.91 tons per square mile per month. This matter also was the subject of complaint by local residents, and investigations showed that the problem was largely one of securing adequate maintenance of the grit arresting plant.

Measurements of atmospheric sulphur by the lead peroxide method gave the following results, expressed in empirical units :—

	Lea Marston (average of 8 gauges)	Bacons End	Keresley
1960 .....	1.09	1.08	0.66
Average of years 1950-1959 .....	0.99	1.06	—

These results are all relatively low, and show the advantage of dispersion by the use of very tall chimneys.

Annual rainfall at Lea Marston was 35.57 inches in 1960 compared with an average of 26.27 inches for the years 1950-1959.

**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into operation on the 29th August, and occupiers of land who wished to take advantage of the special provisions relating to existing sites were required to apply for licences by the 29th October, 1960. All applications so received were referred to the planning authority, and at the end of the year were awaiting determination of the planning status of the respective sites.

The Council adopted a set of model conditions, based on the model standards of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to be attached to site licences when issued.



## RODENT CONTROL

The Council's sole rodent operator resigned early in February and it was not possible to secure a successor until April. No work could be undertaken in the two months, but the following table gives particulars of progress made during the remainder of the year.

Premises inspected .....	478
Premises found to be infested and subsequently treated—	
(a) domestic .....	216
(b) business .....	93
Second treatments .....	20
Third treatments .....	2
Premises cleared .....	297
Premises not completely cleared .....	12
Number of dead rats found .....	320
Treatments of sewage works .....	10
Treatments of refuse tips .....	15
Sewer manholes baited and poisoned .....	8

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The body of an unknown male child was buried by the Council under section 50 of the Act.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

### Inspections

Premises  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	145	24	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	39	12	—	—
Total ..	187	36	—	—

## Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5	5	—	3	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecu- tions (7)
Wearing { Making, apparel { etc., { Cleaning { and { Washing	5	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen . .	1	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles . . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total . .	7	—	—	—	—	—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

At the start of the year the new disposal works for the village of Berkswell came into operation and also work on a new disposal works and a sewer to serve a group of houses in Breach Oak Lane, Astley was put in hand and was completed. A village scheme at Hampton-in-Arden was commenced and substantial progress was made during the year. Tenders were obtained for the extension of sewers in the village of Meriden and preliminary proposals were prepared for sewerage Chadwick End in the parish of Balsall, in the latter part of the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

An improvement in the collection services for house refuse and pail closet contents was brought about by the introduction of incentive bonus schemes. In an area of prosperous and expanding industry, the retention of sufficient suitable men to perform these essential services presents many difficulties. The direct approach made last year to owners and occupiers of houses with pail closets explaining the availability of grants for replacement by water closets, brought about the replacement of 81 pail closets and approved proposals in respect of a further 51 pail closets by the end of the year.

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